

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-11 AID-20 AGR-20 IO-13

SCI-06 AEC-11 SCEM-02 STR-08 RSR-01 /195 W

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R 252130 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1213

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 1453

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, CA

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER GANDHI'S VISIT TO CANADA

REF: STATE 122791

1. SUMMARY. MRS. GANDHI SPENT EIGHT WELL- PUBLICIZED DAYS IN CANADA, JUNE 17-24, VISITING TORONTO, MONTREAL, AND VANCOUVER. SCHEDULE WAS HECTIC - SPEECHES, INTERVIEWS, PRESS CONFERENCES, RECEPTIONS, ETC., LEAVING ABOUT THREE HOURS FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH PRIMIN TRUDEAU, AND EIGHT FOR DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OFFICIALS. CANADIAN OFFICIALS CONSIDERED VISIT OPPORTUNITY TO REINVIGORATE CANDIAN- INDIAN RELATIONS, WHICH HAVE BEEN REDUCED, FROM PEARSON- NEHRU RAPPORT IN '50' S, TO LITTLE MORE THAN DONOR- RECEIVER AID RELATIONSHIP. INDIANS ALSO USED OCCASION FOR MAJOR PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT, WHICH EXTAFF OFFICIALS SURMISE WAS IN GOOD PART INTENDED FOR U. S. AUDIENCES. VISIT WAS PUBLICLY SOLID SUCCESS, DESPITE SEVERAL DEMONSTRATIONS BY PAKISTANI GROUPS. PRIVATELY, EXTAFF REPORTS SOME DISTINCT DIFFERENCES, BUT GREATLY ENHANCED UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEMS FOR BOTH

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SIDES. END SUMMARY.

2. FOODGRAINS (REFTEL). EXTAFF OFFICIALS SAY MRS. GANDHI' S ECONOMIC ADVISER DHAR) WAS FRANK IN EXPLAINING DILEMMA FOR INDIA ON WHEAT SUPPLY. SINCE 1971 INDIAN DECLARATION OF SELF- SUFFICIENCY IN FOODGRAINS, POOR HARVESTS HAD REQUIRED DEPLETION OF INDIAN RESERVES; POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS PREVENTED ACCEPTANCE OF FOOD " AID"; INDIAN FARMERS HOARDING IN EXPECTATION HIGHER PRICES; AND GOI UNABLE, AGAIN FOR POLITICAL REASONS, FORCE FARMERS RELEASE STORES. EVEN IF THIS SUMMER' S HARVEST GOOD, DHAR SAID INDIA WOULD REQUIRE TWO MILLION METRIC TONS FROM CANADA. INDIA COULD NOT ACCEPT AID, BUT WOULD SEEK HIGHLY CONCESSIONAL COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENTS. GOC OFFICIALS REPLIED THAT CANADA MIGHT BE ABLE TO SUPPLY SOME AID (THOUGH CANADIAN HARVEST AS YET UNCERTAIN), OR SELL GRAIN AT COMMERCIAL TERMS (THOUGH TRADITIONAL CUSTOMERS HAD TO COME FIRST). PRICES FOR SALE WOULD BE DICTATED BY FARMERS' INTERESTS. INDIANS ASKED GOC INTER- VENTION WITH CANADIAN FARMERS, WHICH CANADIANS REJECTED, VIEW INCONGRUITY VIS- A- VIS GOI ATTITUDE TOWARDS INDIAN FARMERS, AND LIBERAL GOVERNMENT' S PROBLEMS IN WESTERN CANADA. MATTER LEFT FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AND GLOSSED OVER IN COMMUNIQUE. IN RESPONSE QUESTIONS IN COMMONS, TRUDEAU SAID MRS. HANDHI HAD " RAISED POSSIBILITY" OF PURCHASING WHEAT, BUT HAD NOT GONE INTO DETAILS.

3. OTHER TRADE. A) INDIANS RAISED GENERAL POSSIBILITY OF PURCHASING NUCLEAR POWER EQUIPMENT. GOC OFFICIALS SAID ITEMS ON ZANGGER LIST COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED UNLESS GOI ACCEPTED IAEA SAFEGUARDS. UNDERTAKING WAS MADE, HOWEVER, TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION, AND CANADIANS AGREED SYMPATHETICALLY TO CONSIDER FULFILLING EARLIER CONTRACTS FOR HEAVY WATER OF BASIS BILATERAL SAFEGUARDS.

B) CANADIANS UNABLE BE HELPFUL IN SHORT- TERM IN INDIA PROBLEM OF NEWSPRINT SUPPLY, BUT AGREED STUDY QUESTION CAREFULLY. C) INDIANS PRESSED FOR ESTABLISHMENT JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE. GOC NOT ENTHUSIASTIC, BUT AGREED TO MEETING OF OFFICIALS IN NEW DELHI NEXT NOVEMBER TO

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STUDY BILATERAL PROBLEMS.

4. SOUTH ASIA. INDIANS PRESSED FOR GOC INTERVENTION TO PROMOTE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF INDIA- PAKISTANI PROBLEMS. CANADIANS REFUSED, SAYING THIS NOT IN CANADIAN INTEREST. MRS. GANDHI TOOK THIS WELL. IN SPEECH TO VANCOUVER INDIAN COMMUNITY SHE PROMISED RE-

DOUBLE SEARCH FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION, AND EVEN SUGGESTED
GOI EFFORTS TO DATE MAY HAVE BEEN INADEQUATE.

5. GENERAL. EXTAFF REPORTS TONE OF DISCUSSIONS FRIENDLY
AND INFORMAL, AND GOI OFFICIALS MADE OBVIOUS EFFORT BE
FORTHCOMING. IN PUBLIC APPEARANCES MRS. GANDHI DISPLAYED
VERY CONSIDERABLE CHARM, AND CAREFULLY AVOIDED LANGUAGE
WHICH COULD BE CONSIDERED ANTAGONISTIC TO CANADA
OR, MORE PARTICULARLY, TO THE U. S. IN FINAL VANCOUVER
PRESS CONFERENCE SHE EXPRESSED STRONG DESIRE IMPROVE
RELATIONS WITH U. S. DESPITE PAST DIFFERENCES. EXTAFF
OFFICIALS SAID OLIVE BRANCH MUCH IN EVIDENCE.

6. MRS. GANDHI' S BRIEF VISIT TO LAKE PLACID WAS WITHOUT
UNTOWARD INCIDENT.
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